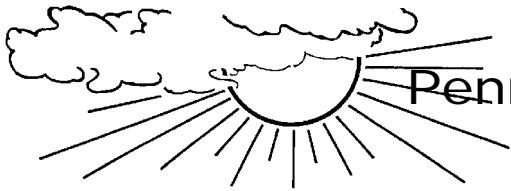




United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Pennsylvania Agricultural
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Pennsylvania: Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

For The Week Ending April 16, 2000

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Very Poor Week for Field: There were 2.8 days suitable for field work. Soil moisture was rated 1 percent very short, 7 percent short, 76 percent adequate and 16 percent surplus. Some farmers reported receiving snow last week. Activities included spring plowing, planting oats, alfalfa, sweet corn and tobacco; fixing fences; machinery maintenance; ordering supplies; spreading lime and fertilizers; hauling manure; caring for livestock; spraying herbicides and pruning trees.

Crops: Fall seeded crops were turning green but progress was slow due to the cool temperatures last week. Barley and wheat fields were looking good, but some annual weed problems were reported in wheat. Planting of oats progress last week but was one week behind the five-year average. Alfalfa and timothy clover were mostly in good condition. Tobacco planting was 4 percent behind last year and 6 percent ahead of the five-year average. Spring plowing was 44 percent complete, 4 percent ahead of last year and six percent ahead of the five-year average.

Livestock: Most pastures were showing good growth and color but have not developed far enough for full time grazing. Pasture was rated 54 percent good to excellent, compared to 47 percent the previous week.

Fruit & Vegetables: Trees have started to bud and pruning continued around the state. Peaches and cherries continue to bloom and progress two weeks ahead of normal. Some areas reported slow development for apples this past week. Vegetable farmers are beginning to plant sweet corn under plastic in some areas.

U.S. As Of April 9, 2000: Field work continued with few delays in the Great Plains and the western Corn Belt. However, precipitation occurred from eastern Texas northeastward into New England, halting fieldwork in the eastern Corn Belt, parts

of the lower Mississippi and Tennessee Valleys, and Atlantic Coast States. Warm, dry weather aided planting progress and stimulated crop development in the Southwest and Pacific Northwest. Winter wheat growth slowed after a cold front passed through the Great Plains and Corn Belt. Soil moisture shortages stressed dryland wheat fields in the southern High Plains, but moisture supplies remained mostly adequate to support wheat development in the central Great Plains and eastern Corn Belt. Soil moisture shortages increased along the eastern Gulf Coast and Atlantic Coastal Plains, as mostly dry weather continued. Six percent of the Nation's winter wheat was at the heading stage or beyond, compared with 4 percent last year and the average of 3 percent. A cold front slowed growth in the Great Plains and Corn Belt, but development remained ahead of normal in most areas. Four percent of the corn acreage was planted, slightly ahead last year and the 5-year average. Planting rapidly progressed in the southern Corn Belt and Tennessee River Valley. Growers began planting in the central and eastern Corn Belt, progressing slightly ahead of normal before rain halted progress. Soil moisture was adequate to germinate seeds along the Ohio River Valley, but a few emerged fields were damaged by freezing temperatures after mid-week. Planting advanced 4 percentage points, to 8 percent complete, ahead of last year's 5-percent pace and the 6-percent average for this date. Dry weather and above-normal temperatures aided rapid progress in the Southwest. Rain also prevented planting in the lower Mississippi Valley. Oat seeding advanced to 29 percent, well ahead of last year's rapid progress, and 20 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Dry weather aided progress across the northern Corn Belt. Planting was active in the eastern Corn Belt and upper Ohio River Valley before rain and snow halted progress near mid-week. The barley acreage was 12 percent seeded, 2 percentage points ahead of last year's pace, and 4 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average.

PA Crop Progress For Week Ending April 16, 2000

	Current Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	Percent			
Spring Plowing	44	26	40	38
Oats, Planted	28	21	33	33
Oats, Emerged	11	6	13	N/A
Tobacco Beds, Planted	95	75	99	89
Peaches, Pink Stage	84	57	44	37
Peaches, Full Bloom	72	36	27	22
Cherries, Pink Stage	62	25	30	33
Cherries, Full Bloom	42	15	12	19
Apples, Pink Stage	11	4	20	19

N/A = Not available

PA Crop Condition For Week Ending April 16, 2000

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Winter Wheat	0	2	15	66	17
Oats	5	6	48	36	5
Alfalfa, Stands	2	4	23	58	13
Timothy Clover, Stands	6	3	18	64	9
Pasture Conditions	4	9	33	45	9

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Weather Data For Week Ending April 16, 2000																		
Reporting Station	Weekly Temperature				Growing Degree Days From April 1				Rainfall - Values Are For A 24-Hour Period Ending 7:00 A.M., In Inches									
	High	Low	Avg	Dep From Norm	40 Degrees		50 Degrees		April							For Week	From April 1	
					Days	Dep From Norm	Days	Dep From Norm	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	Total	Total	Dep From Norm
Erie	70	28	42	-3	102	42	22	22	0.03	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.15	4.47	2.75
Warren	77	26	44	0	93	63	27	27	0.16	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.26	4.69	2.82
Franklin	78	24	46	2	126	84	29	29	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.87	1.00
Clearfield	76	20	42	-3	90	45	18	18	0.00	0.00	0.24	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	2.61	0.85
Pittsburgh	77	25	45	-3	142	24	37	37	0.01	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.13	3.24	1.55
Rector	79	18	42	-7	96	-22	22	22	0.00	0.00	0.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.58	3.11	1.42
Altoona	71	25	43	-5	139	52	32	32	0.02	0.05	0.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.40	2.14	0.51
Emporium	78	24	44	-1	90	45	22	22	0.02	0.01	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	3.24	1.48
Wellsboro	73	22	40	-1	79	68	16	16	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	3.54	2.26
State College	75	25	45	-2	138	73	38	38	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	1.62	0.08
Williamsport	72	26	45	-4	162	48	31	31	0.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.33	3.12	1.25
Selinsgrove	69	26	44	-3	149	55	32	32	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	2.91	1.22
Montrose	72	22	39	-3	98	83	21	21	0.03	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.15	4.72	2.78
Scranton	70	25	43	-4	160	69	46	46	0.03	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	2.82	1.22
Allentown	61	27	44	-5	178	61	53	53	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.16	0.26	2.46	0.42
Reading	61	28	45	-4	205	96	62	62	0.03	0.00	0.07	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.20	2.20	0.21
Harrisburg	63	29	47	-4	228	80	65	60	0.07	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.11	2.94	1.31
Biglerville	62	29	45	-5	182	62	43	41	0.07	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.21	2.15	0.39
Lancaster	63	27	45	-6	188	40	53	48	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.09	2.26	0.63
Philadelphia	63	31	48	-3	263	103	84	75	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.29	0.37	1.99	0.07

Weather Summary By: National Weather Service, State College, Pennsylvania

Crop Summary By: Eric Stout & Carrie Louey, Agricultural Statisticians, NASS

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